

TOOL INDUSTRY UPDATE ►

## “The Old Saw Man”

MARSHALL BURNS HONORED WITH LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**T**OOLS OF THE TRADE magazine presented its first Lifetime Achievement Award to living legend Marshall Burns at the *JLC* Live Show in Providence, R.I., in March. Burns started

working with his father in 1937 making saw blades, often traveling to remote sawmills in the Maine woods to set up the 5-foot-diameter circular blades used to rip huge logs into lumber. Even

at 80 years of age he was still making the same trips to hammer those huge blades flat so they'd spin true, and he remains an outspoken advocate of hammer-tempered saw blades today.

Since its beginning in 1934, Burns Power Tools in Fall River, Mass., has evolved and grown with the industry into one of the best-

known tool stores in the country. It specializes in manufacturing custom saw blades and high-quality sharpening services. Burns himself is credited with inventing thin kerf blade technology, and years ago traveled to Japan to help Tenryu designers develop their first product. In 2005 he was inducted into the TOOLS Hall of Fame. Now, at 90, Burns can be found every day at his shop, where he works alongside his sons and grandson, developing new saw blades and ways to improve their performance. His passion and energy for innovation, quality, and improvement have not diminished the least bit over the years. — Rick Schwolsky



## Blue-Collar Jobs Turn Green

INDUSTRY GROUPS STEP UP TO RETRAIN, REPOSITION WORKERS FOR COMEBACK

**W**ith home building at a near standstill and the government promising financial stimulus for energy-producing and conservation initiatives, a number of industry, private, and government cooperative programs have emerged to help builders and trades-

people get back to work.

Although these programs focus on residential construction, their mission is to train or retrain skilled trades to become “green-collar workers” for solar- and wind-power product installation, home-energy auditing, and other energy-

related jobs with near-term employment and career-growth potential.

“A lot of training for green industry includes transferable skills from construction workers,” says Chris Stoneman, who oversees Green Workforce

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## HOT FINDS



### UNIVERSAL WORKBENCH

The Walko Workbench is a smartly engineered portable workstation invented and sold in Europe and now available here. It unfolds into several configurations, from sawhorse to worktable to a unique upright workstation with shelves. Extruded aluminum construction provides high strength while keeping the unit's weight to 46 pounds (76 pounds with repositionable bamboo work surfaces). ■ Price: \$729 (32-inch-wide model); \$899 (41-inch-wide model). 402-525-2435. walkousa.com.

### SCRAPER ACCESSORY

The Spyder Scraper from Simple Man Products is about as basic as a tool gets. This resharpenable metal scraper blade—available in 2-, 4-, and 6-inch blade widths—mounts in any make or model reciprocating saw and removes tenacious glued-down materials like vinyl tiles and carpet, dried masonry and plaster splatters, and even paint and wallpaper. ■ Price: \$10 to \$16. 888-471-2239. simplemanproducts.com.

